



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front St., Boise, ID - TEL: (208) 287-4800 FAX: (208) 287-6700

www.idwr.idaho.gov

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Clarification on Replacement Water Required Under Order Issued in Response to Surface Water Coalition Water Call

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For Media Information Contact:
Michael Keckler – (208) 287-4828

Under the order issued on April 19, 2005 by IDWR Director Karl Dreher, ground water right holders in Water District's 120 and 130 with a priority date of February 27, 1979 and later must provide a minimum of 27,700 acre-feet of replacement water during the 2005 irrigation season to avoid curtailment.

That is the minimum amount of reasonably likely shortages predicted to occur in 2005 under natural flow water rights and storage contracts held by members of the Surface Water Coalition.

In the order, Dreher determined that Surface Water Coalition would likely suffer material injury predicted to be 133,400 acre-feet in 2005. Dreher also determined in lieu of curtailment, the affected ground water users in the two water districts are responsible for supplying a total of 101,000 acre-feet of the necessary replacement water over time.

That obligation can be addressed with replacement water, curtailment, or a combination of the two. The order allows the ground water users to supply that replacement water over time in amounts equal to accruals that would occur from curtailment. But it is important to note that if the drought continues, the balance of water owed this year will be added to whatever additional mitigation may be necessary next year, if material injury occurs.

Again, ground water districts and others have until the close of business on April 29, 2005 to file plans with IDWR to provide replacement water. Director Dreher will approve or disallow the plans by May 6, 2005.

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